



Truck Drivers, Light or Delivery Services

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Job Overview

When you are out shopping, you may not realize that a wide variety of transportation workers are involved with moving materials or finished products throughout the supply and delivery chain. Merchandise is transported by air, rail, or trucking lines from manufacturing plants to shipping docks or distribution warehouses, and then on to your favorite retail store.

Light or Delivery Services Truck Drivers drive trucks that carry fewer than three tons. They normally move products and materials to and from local area places such as factories, warehouses, train stations, airports, private homes, office buildings, and stores. Drivers usually load or unload the merchandise at the customer's place of business. They may have helpers such as material handlers to load the truck according to the order of delivery. At the beginning of the shift, Drivers obtain a delivery schedule from the dispatcher. Upon arrival at the customer's place of business, the Driver unloads the shipment and the customer signs a receipt for the goods. Sometimes payment is made directly to the Driver. At the end of their shift, the Driver turns in receipts, money received, records of delivery, and reports of any mechanical problems.

Some Light Truck Drivers, also known as Driver/Sales Workers, sell and deliver company products to customers on an assigned route. Their response to customer complaints and requests can make the difference between a large order and a lost customer. Most work on wholesale routes that deliver to businesses and stores, rather than to homes. Driver/Sales Workers may take orders and collect payments. They also seek new orders from businesses along their route.

Typical Tasks

- ➔ Drive vehicles with capacities under three tons in order to transport materials to and from specified destinations such as railroad stations, plants, residences and offices, or within industrial yards.
- ➔ Inspect and maintain vehicle supplies and equipment, such as gas, oil, water, tires, lights, and brakes in order to ensure that vehicles are in proper working condition.
- ➔ Present bills and receipts, and collect payments for goods delivered or loaded.
- ➔ Load and unload trucks, vans, or automobiles.
- ➔ Obey traffic laws, and follow established traffic and transportation procedures.

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- ➔ Read maps, and follow written and verbal geographic directions.
- ➔ Verify the contents of inventory loads against shipping papers.
- ➔ Maintain records such as vehicle logs, records of cargo, or billing statements, in accordance with regulations.

*Detailed descriptions of this occupation may be found in the Occupational Information Network (O*NET) at online.onetcenter.org.*

Important Skills, Knowledge, and Abilities

- ➔ Active Listening — Giving full attention to what other people are saying, taking time to understand the points being made, asking questions as appropriate, and not interrupting at inappropriate times.
- ➔ Equipment Maintenance — Performing routine maintenance on equipment and determining when and what kind of maintenance is needed.
- ➔ Time Management — Managing one's own time and the time of others.
- ➔ Reading Comprehension — Understanding written sentences and paragraphs in work-related documents.
- ➔ Social Perceptiveness — Being aware of others' reactions and understanding why they react as they do.
- ➔ Transportation — Knowledge of principles and methods for moving people or goods by air, rail, sea, or road, including the relative costs and benefits.
- ➔ Multilimb Coordination — The ability to coordinate two or more limbs (for example, two arms, two legs, or one leg and one arm) while sitting, standing, or lying down. It does not involve performing the activities while the whole body is in motion.
- ➔ Far Vision — The ability to see details at a distance.
- ➔ Problem Sensitivity — The ability to tell when something is wrong or is likely to go wrong. It does not involve solving the problem, only recognizing there is a problem.
- ➔ Static Strength — The ability to exert maximum muscle force to lift, push, pull, or carry objects.
- ➔ Reaction Time — The ability to quickly respond (with the hand, finger, or foot) to a signal (sound, light, picture) when it appears.
- ➔ Speech Recognition — The ability to identify and understand the speech of another person.

Work Environment

Light or Delivery Services Truck Drivers usually drive for several hours at a stretch, unloading cargo and making deliveries, which can be tiring. Local Truck Drivers frequently work 50 or more hours a week and usually return home in the evening. Drivers who handle food for chain grocery stores, produce markets, or bakeries typically work long hours, starting at night or early in the morning. Most Drivers have regular routes, although some have different routes each day. Many Truck Drivers, especially Driver/Sales Workers, load and unload their own trucks. This requires considerable lifting, carrying, and walking each day.

Some Light or Delivery Services Truck Drivers belong to the International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

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California's Job Outlook and Wages

The California Outlook and Wage table below represents the occupation across all industries.

Standard Occupational Classification	Estimated Number of Workers 2004	Estimated Number of Workers 2014	Average Annual Openings	2006 Wage Range (per hour)
Truck Drivers, Light or Delivery Services				
53-3033	116,500	140,200	3,440	\$9.31 to \$16.09

Wages do not reflect self-employment.

Average annual openings include new jobs plus net replacements.

Source: www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov, Employment Projections by Occupation and OES Employment & Wages by Occupation, Labor Market Information Division, Employment Development Department.

Trends

Employment of Truck Drivers, Light or Delivery Services is expected to grow faster than average for all occupations over the 2004-2014 period. The need for local deliveries has grown due to the constant development of shopping centers, homes, and malls. This growth will spur a need for Light Truck Drivers to make more deliveries from central warehouses in order to meet customer demand. Also, the increased popularity of shopping via the Internet will continue to drive the need for shipping services.

Training/Requirements/Apprenticeships

Truck Drivers, Light or Delivery Services usually follow one of the following training paths:

- ➔ Adult education
- ➔ Extensive on-the-job training
- ➔ High school diploma or equivalent
- ➔ Regional occupational programs
- ➔ Truck driving schools
- ➔ Vocational schools

Drivers also must possess a valid California driver license and a good driving record. If Light Truck Drivers wish to advance in their career, there are a wide variety of heavy truck driving training programs available through vocational and truck driving schools.

Recommended High School Course Work

High School preparation courses in driver's training, automotive mechanics, accounting, general business, business mathematics, and computer technology are helpful. Accounting and business classes are particularly helpful for those who plan to enter self-employment.

Where Do I Find the Job?

Direct application to employers remains one of the most effective job search methods.

Use the *Search for Employers by Industry* feature on the *Career Center* page at www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov to locate employers in your area. Search under the following industry names to get a list of private firms and their addresses:

- ➔ Couriers
- ➔ Dairy Product Merchant
- ➔ General Warehousing and Storage
- ➔ Meat & Meat Product Merchant

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- Fish and Seafood Merchant
- Fruit & Vegetable Merchant
- General Freight Trucking, Local
- General Line Grocery Merchant
- Other Grocery Product Merchant
- Other Warehousing and Storage
- Packaged Frozen Food Merchant
- Refrigerated Warehousing and Storage

Search these **yellow page** headings for listings of private firms:

- Brokers - Motor Transportation
- Delivery Service
- Trucking
- Trucking - Motor Freight

Where Can the Job Lead?

Advancement opportunities for Light Truck Drivers are a bit limited. Light Truck Drivers may become driver trainers, supervisors of warehouses, terminals, or docks, or company branch managers. Drivers often change employers for better pay, different kinds of driving experience, more responsibility, or better working conditions. Local or Light Truck Drivers may also advance to driving heavy or special types of trucks, or transfer to long-distance truck driving. Working for companies that also employ long-distance Drivers is the best way to advance to these positions.

Related Occupations

Bus Drivers, Transit and Intercity (see *Occupational Guide No. 2*)
Bus Drivers, School (see *Occupational Guide No. 578*)
Industrial Truck and Tractor Operators (see *Logistics Profile*)
Railroad Yard Workers (see *Logistics Profile*)
Truck Drivers, Heavy (see *Logistics Profile*)
Driver/Sales Workers (see *Logistics Profile*)

Other Sources

American Trucking Associations
www.truckline.com

California Association of Regional Occupational Centers and Programs
www.carocp.org/carocps.html

International Brotherhood of Teamsters
www.teamster.org

Professional Truck Driver Institute, Inc.
www.ptdi.org